

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
Nakao )  
Application Number: To be Assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: FUNCTIONAL BEADS, METHOD FOR READING THE )  
SAME AND BEAD-READING APPARATUS )  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. HIRA.0134 )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above identified application as follows: